

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
David Stanley Ohn TINN
Serial No. (unknown)
Filed herewith
CONNECTOR DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Cancel the abstract as originally filed and add the new abstract on the accompanying sheet.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

--19. (amended) A method according to claim 16 for forming an assembly comprising an inclined hand rail, said method comprising use of said connector devices, providing a respective vertical post to extend into the bore of each of said connector devices, and the second of the two members to be inter-connected by each connection device being a three-way type connector having a through-bore, with the inclined hand rail member extending through the through-bores of a plurality

of said second members, and arranging the locking means of one second member in said first position to locate axially with one connector device whilst a similar inter-connection is formed between a second and subsequent associated pairs of connector devices and second members, and thereafter moving said locking means to said second position thereby to firmly inter-connect at least one of the respective pairs of connector devices and second members.--

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Benoît Castel
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,041
Customer No. 00466
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

December 14, 2001

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A connector device for forming a structural inter-connection between two members, such as an inclined hand rail and a vertical support post, and which permits variation of the angle of inter-connection includes a body portion having a bore defining a housing to receive one of two members to be inter-connected and a stem portion of substantially cylindrical form having a major axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the major axis of the bore defined by the body portion, the stem portion being adapted to be received, in use, in a housing defined by a bore of a second of the two members to be inter-connected by the connector device, and the stem portion comprising in the outer surface thereof an annular groove having the major axis thereof coincident with the major axis of the stem portion and the annular groove being provided axially inwards from the distal end of the stem portion.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

--19. (amended) A method according to claim 16 for
forming an assembly comprising an inclined hand rail, said
method comprising use of said connector devices ~~each of a kind~~
~~in accordance with claim 1~~, providing a respective vertical
post to extend into the bore of each of said connector
devices, and the second of the two members to be inter-
connected by each connection device being a three-way type
connector having a through-bore, with the inclined hand rail
member extending through the through-bores of a plurality of
said second members, and arranging the locking means of one
second member in said first position to locate axially with
one connector device whilst a similar inter-connection is
formed between a second and subsequent associated pairs of
connector devices and second members, and thereafter moving
said locking means to said second position thereby to firmly
inter-connect at least one of the respective pairs of connec-
tor devices and second members.--